

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 PCH-02 AF-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 MC-02 NIC-01 ACDA-19

OMB-01 RSR-01 /151 W

----- 018875

R 061823Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2366

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USMISSION NATO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 21259

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MARR, FR, CH, PK

SUBJ: RUMORED APPEARANCE OF FRENCH MIRAGES IN PRC

DEPT POUCH USLO PEKING

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. ISRAELI JOURNALIST ELIE MAISSI, PARIS CORRESPONDENT FOR HA'ARETZ (AND STRINGER FOR NEWSWEEK), TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 3 HE HAD HEARD FROM "USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE" THAT 16 FRENCH MIRAGE AIRCRAFT HAVE APPEARED IN MAINLAND CHINA. MAISSI'S SOURCE (NOT IDENTIFIED) ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE HEARD THAT "SOME GROUND EQUIPMENT" RELATED TO MIRAGES HAD APPEARED IN PRC.

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2. EMBOFF STRONGLY DOUBTED FRENCH HAD SOLD MIRAGES TO CHINA,

SINCE THIS COULD SERIOUSLY PROVOKE SOVIETS AND DAMAGE FRANCE'S VALUED "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH MOSCOW. MOREOVER, EMBOFF THOUGHT ENTRY INTO CHINA OF FRENCH MIRAGES AND EQUIPMENT WOULD MOST PROBABLY HAVE BEEN DETECTED AND OPENLY REPORTED. EMBOFF SPECULATED THAT JUST AS LIBYANS EVIDENTLY TEMPORARILY DEPLOYED MIRAGES TO EGYPT THIS YEAR, PAKISTANIS MAY HAVE FLOWN SOME OF THEIR MIRAGES TO CHINA -- BUT EVEN THIS SEEMS HIGHLY DOUBTFUL, FOR INDIANS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE REPORTED SUCH A DEVELOPMENT.

3. MAISSI AGREED THAT THIS REPORT SEEMED HIGHLY IMPROBABLE. EMBASSY NONETHELES HAS DECIDED TO BRING IT TO ATTENTION OF ADDRESSEES FOR THE RECORD.
STONE

NOTE BY OCT: PARIS 21259 POUCHED USLO PEKING.
NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PINR, MARR, FR, CH, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005